

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Ciesielski (Reg. No. 57,432) on 9/25/2009.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The Information Disclosure Statement dated 08/18/2009 is acknowledged by the examiner and the cited references have been considered in the examination of the claims now pending. A copy of the PTOL-1449 has been initialed and attached.

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on March 20, 2009 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of Patent No. 7,020,701, Patent No. 6,859,831, Patent No. 6,832,251, and Patent No. 6,826,607 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Double Patenting

4. The provisional double patenting rejections based on pending applications 09/684,387 and 09/684,742 are hereby withdrawn pursuant to MPEP 804 I.B.

Please enter the following changes to the claims:

Please cancel Claims 80, 81, 84, 85, 91, 95, 97, 99, 100, 106 and 108-111.

Please amend the claims as follows:

92. (Currently amended) A sensor network comprising a plurality of network elements including at least one node configured to be coupled among a monitored environment,

wherein the at least one node includes at least one sensor,

wherein the at least one node is further configured to process data gathered from the monitored environment by the at least one sensor and to propagate a predetermined identifying code representing the gathered data through the sensor network,

wherein the plurality of network elements is configured to represent a high priority message containing information regarding a high priority event by a high priority message code, and

wherein receipt of the high priority message code by the at least one node invokes a priority protocol that causes message packets to be broadcast to nodes adjacent to a path that will inhibit messaging from nodes not engaged in conveying the information regarding the high priority event and[[.]]

wherein a distribution of data processing by the plurality of network elements varies dynamically based on a priority of the message.

103. (Currently amended) A sensor network comprising:

a plurality of network elements including at least one node configured to be coupled among a monitored environment,

wherein the at least one node is further configured to provide node information including node resource cost and a message priority to the plurality of network elements,

wherein the plurality of network elements is configured to distribute data processing through the sensor network in response to the node resource cost, [[and]]

wherein the distribution of the data processing comprises selecting at least one data type for processing, selecting at least one of the plurality of network elements to process the selected at least one data type, and transferring data of the selected at least one data type to the selected at least one of the plurality of network elements, and[.]

wherein the distribution of data processing varies dynamically based on the message priority.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott M. Sciacca whose telephone number is (571) 270-1919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott M. Sciacca/
Examiner, Art Unit 2446

/Jeffrey Pwu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2446